

resource for students and the greater college community. Today, the Student Association gives voice to the concerns and interests of students through its support of more than 80 campus clubs and organizations.

SUNY Plattsburgh prepares students from across New York to compete in a rapidly-changing global economy. By fostering the values of scholarship, diversity, and inclusion on campus and in the greater community, the Student Association has contributed immeasurably to the university's mission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all current and former members of the SUNY Plattsburgh Student Association for reaching this milestone, thanking them for all their contributions to the Plattsburgh community, and wishing them all the best in years ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE SLOVAK CLUB OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Slovak Club of Merrillville, Indiana, as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Slovak Club is hosting a celebratory event on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at the club hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Slovak Club of Merrillville was first established in 1913 when a group of Slovak men joined together with the goal of preserving Slovak heritage and tradition at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gary. The group initially called themselves the Slovak Political and Educational Club. After World War II, members of the club wanted a permanent home and purchased property at 11th Avenue and Harrison Boulevard in Gary. The Ladies Auxiliary was established in 1950, and once the new building was complete, the auxiliary began hosting dinners featuring shrimp, fish, and traditional Slovak fare, which were tremendously successful. The organization continued to grow over the next twenty years with membership exceeding more than 450 members. By 1979, the organization's Board of Directors sold the Slovak Club building in Gary, and members began meeting at the Slovak American Legion Post #367. The current home for the Slovak Club in Merrillville, at 69th Avenue and Broadway, was completed in 1986. For the past 100 years, Slovak Club members have dedicated their time and efforts to many charitable organizations throughout the community, and for this they are to be commended.

I would like to take this time to recognize the Slovak Club officers and Board of Directors. The officers are President Ronald Mayersky, Vice President Randall Mayersky, Treasurer John Dienes, Financial Secretary Kenneth Dienes, and Recording Secretary John Brezik. The Board of Directors include Robert Deliget, Peter Guip, George Murray, Donald Engel, Paul Rogers, Joseph Koveck, John Stofko, William Mindas, and Ed Mayersky.

I would also note with pride that my 97-year-old father, former Gary Mayor John Vis-

losky, continues his membership in this noteworthy fraternal organization, as do I.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Slovak Club of Merrillville, Indiana. The Slovak community has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. For their commitment to civic endeavors and to preserving Slovak traditions, the Slovak Club's leaders and membership are worthy of our highest praise.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the Saint Paul Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and acknowledge their tremendous efforts to defend the ideals of justice and equality for all people. The origins of the Saint Paul NAACP are closely tied to those of the national organization, which is the oldest, largest and most recognized civil rights group in the country.

The NAACP was founded when civil rights leaders of the Niagara Movement were joined by others calling for justice following the Springfield, Illinois Race Riot of 1908. The Niagara Movement was founded by prominent black leaders including W.E.B. Du Bois and Minnesota's own Frederick L. McGhee. Mr. McGhee was a Mississippi native who moved to Minnesota after law school, where he became the first African-American in Minnesota in history admitted to practice law. Involvement in law and politics propelled Mr. McGhee to the forefront of the civil rights movement as a champion of social equality, leading national efforts against racial discrimination and violence. Of the Niagara Movement, W.E.B. Du Bois said the honor of founding the organization belonged to Mr. McGhee, who first suggested it. After just the second meeting of the Niagara Movement, Mr. McGhee returned home to Minnesota and helped organize a civil rights protection and advocacy group in the Twin Cities. By 1913, Saint Paul members of this group called to order the first meeting of what became the capitol city's own NAACP branch. Thus, the Saint Paul NAACP was born.

During the 100 years since it was founded, the Saint Paul NAACP has produced nationally influential leaders like Roy Wilkins, who served as the National Executive Director from 1955–1977. Under Wilkins' direction during the turbulent Civil Rights era, the NAACP boldly investigated brutality, murder, segregation, discrimination and fought to end the suppression of minority voters at the ballot box. True to its origins, the Saint Paul NAACP continues to focus on economic disparities, health care, education, voter empowerment and the criminal justice system as it advocates for social justice and the inclusion of all citizens in the democratic process, regardless of racial, ethnic or religious lines.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the courageous and honorable work of the Saint Paul NAACP as staff and the many volunteers who make it a success celebrate its 100th anniversary.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY'S UPSTATE NEW YORK/VERMONT CHAPTER

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the generous staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Upstate New York/Vermont Chapter. On Saturday, September 28, in recognition of Blood Cancer Awareness Month, 1,000 walkers will gather at Siena College in Loudonville, NY for the chapter's Light the Night Walk. Participants have raised more than \$200,000 to fund treatments that are saving the lives of blood cancer patients.

I am delighted to formally recognize the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for its hard work, community spirit, and dedication to fighting cancer. By bringing people together at Siena and similar events around the country this month, the society is making great strides in its mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Blood cancer is the number three cancer killer in our country. Nearly 149,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed in 2013. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has invested almost \$1 billion in research, contributing to the development of life-saving drugs. Since 1963, myeloma survival rates have more than tripled. Lymphoma survival rates have more than doubled. Leukemia survival rates have more than quadrupled.

This movement is made possible by the friends, families, and co-workers of cancer patients who form fundraising teams around the Nation. These efforts culminate in inspirational evening walks in over 200 U.S. communities, including the Siena campus and the city of Burlington, VT. Last year the Upstate New York/Vermont Chapter raised \$1.1 million, hosted 19 educational seminars, welcomed 300 attendees to monthly support groups, and disbursed more than \$300,000 in patient financial support.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to this organization for bringing the light of hope and caring to the dark world of cancer. May God bless and protect these good citizens and their loved ones.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND PREVENTING SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the lives of the nearly 30,000 Americans who die each year by their own hands, it is important that we recognize the emotional and mental trauma that